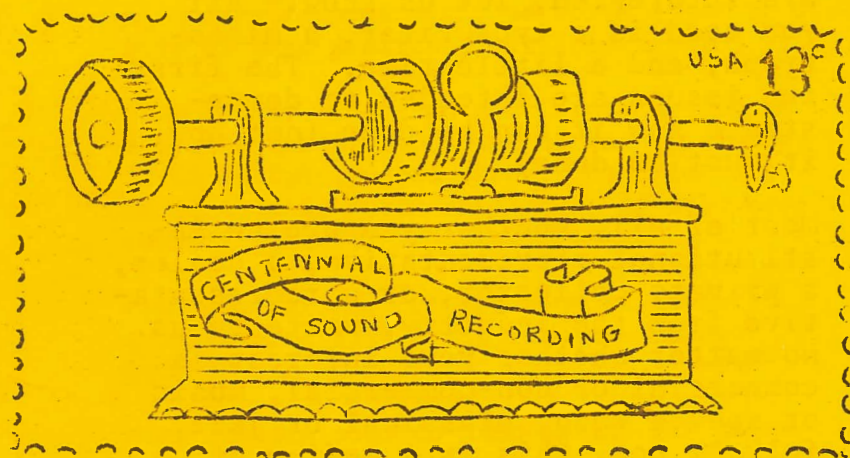


ARSC

NEWSLETTER



#1
APRIL 1977

The long-desired newsletter is now a reality, thanks to our improved financial situation.

It is designed to enhance communication among the members. It should indicate the broad range of interests represented in our membership. It will enable you to share your views with others.

It will appear regularly every three months. Material for the next issue (letters, short pieces, anything) should be sent to our executive secretary by *July 1*. It will be mailed July 15. We hope to maintain this schedule thereafter.

The job of editor is open. If you are interested, let us know. All you need is a typewriter, a mimeograph, and a little time. The first two issues are intended to demonstrate how it can be done (not how it must be done).

Most of all, whether you are an institutional representative, a dealer, a private collector, or a representative from the industry, write to us. No matter whether your interest is commercial or non-commercial, music or spoken word, classical or jazz, folk or pop, this is a medium of communication for you. Show us how broad ARSC is! --JFW

*Write to: Mr James B. Wright
Fine Arts Library
U. of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131*

LETTERS TO ARSC

From New Jersey: I have a Victor record with dog looking at phonograph (78) by Mr Enrico Caruso.

7720-A Pagliacci--Vesti la giubba

7720-B Marta--M'appari
with Victor Symphony Orch.

Does this record have any value. We have had it for a long time.

There are four copies in the Library of Congress alone.

From Michigan: I would like to know if any of these following records have any monetary value? . . .

From New York: Would you be able to advise me of an approximate amount that my original Al Jolson records might be worth & how to dispose of them profitably at some auction. . . .

From Texas: I have an old Caruso record on a Victor label--impressed on one side only. It is in fairly good shape. Can you tell me if this is worth anything? If so, where could I sell it?

From New Jersey: Do you know if there is a market for old 78 rpm records dating back 30 and 40 years?

More letters come to ARSC asking for price information and appraisals than on any other subject. "An old Caruso record" is likely to be duplicated in thousands of attics.

From a library in New Jersey (the entire letter): Please help me with some information about OLD RECORDS dating back to 1900's history and value.

From an insurance company in Michigan: We have been advised that this organization would be able to furnish us information regarding the value of some autographed record albums which our insured had prior to a theft . . .

From a public archive in New York: I have been trying to obtain a copy of *Edison Diamond Discs* by Fred Karlin . . . It seems that the publisher no longer exists. . . . Can you suggest places that still might carry the work, and perhaps the work on Edison Cylinders by Koenigsberg as well?

From Michigan: Do you have some suggestions on reference materials for care of old 78's --source of needles etc. . . .

From a newspaper "help" column in New Jersey: The enclosed request for help was sent to [us]. Your cooperation in trying to solve the problem will be appreciated.

ARSC seems to have a role to play for the general public. Antiques magazines have referred people to us, and our advertising for new members has provided non-members with our address. There seems to be an educational and service role but how do we provide this service? Should ARSC compile a list of dealers and collectors and send it routinely in answer to such inquirers? In addition to a standard reply, should ARSC develop some way of referring some letters to individual members who might prepare a specific answer?

From a new member in Texas: I just knew somewhere, someone was interested in the Edison and records and now I've found you. . . . I have about 2000 Edison diamond disc

records in *mint* condition still in their old jackets (I've not inventoried them yet) . . .

From Kraainem, Belgium: I collect anything on the Paramount 12000/13000 series (the "Race" Series) and its associated and related labels. I have about 600 of these on the original label and I have, between records, tapes and LP reissues, about 90% of the catalog complete, including alternate takes. . . . My interest . . . lies in the possibility of getting into touch with collectors who have records on these labels.

From California: I am interested in obtaining the following discographies: Bob Scobey; Turk Murphy. Can you help me? . . .

From Kentucky: I am attempting to locate as many of the 78 rpm records as possible made by Lulu Belle and Scotty [Wiseman] and the DeZurik Sisters. All those artists were once stars of WLS Chicago and the NATIONAL BARN DANCE. . . .

To ask questions or to supply answers along these lines, please write to ARSC Newsletter, using the address on page 2.

From Michigan: Enclosed is a check . . . I was one of the original members and would like to see . . . 1--A membership card. 2--A certificate of membership. . . .

We stopped sending membership cards a few years ago for a very minor reason: it required a special mailing for that purpose alone, and postage is now up to 13¢. Perhaps soon we may decide that we can afford it once more because it's a very good idea.

CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

About 100 people attended the eleventh annual ARSC Conference at East Orange, NJ from March 30 to April 2, the largest turnout in our history.

Mike Biel reported that the 72 who attended the banquet preceding the annual meeting exceeded any previous conference attendance.

Membership has been going up at the rate of 50 a year, and is well over 500 right now.

This is the first year without a report on our financial problems. With the increased dues income, we have enough money in our treasury to pay for the Journal just mailed as well as the next one in June. Solvency will mean not only carrying out our regular obligations but planning greater service to our members, such as the Newsletter.

ARSC committees are being enlarged. There is work to do and a list of members to do it, judging by the list of names Jim Wright has compiled. There is a new Technical Standards Committee now. All committees will have at least three members and will meet at least once a year. Time for committee meetings will be scheduled during the annual conference. If you haven't written to Jim Wright lately inquiring about serving the association, write now.

Kurtz Myers, who chaired the record review panel, reported that he has signed a contract to deliver a new volume of *Record Ratings* to his publisher in 1978. Now that Kurtz has retired from three public libraries in succession, he'll have time to give us that indispensable tool.

THE TRIPLE A?

You may have wondered about the latest addition to ARSC's jargon. AAA stands for Associated Audio Archives, an informal grouping of the six largest record archives in North America: Library of Congress, New York Public Library (Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives), Stanford University, Syracuse University, Yale University, and the University of Toronto.

Don't think that this is only of institutional interest. If you're a collector or dealer, it is a significant break-through for you, too. The eventual result of AAA will be a Union Catalogue of Commercially Issued Pre-LP Classical Music and Spoken Word Sound Recordings. If that's not your field, don't stop here. The project is the first step in cataloging everything everywhere.

After conversations started among representatives of the institutions in 1974, ARSC decided at Montreal in 1975 to sponsor the project. At Palo Alto last year a grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities was approved. ARSC received the grant of \$15,000 for a planning study which began last October and will be concluded next March. The six institutions are prepared to contribute almost \$10,000 of assistance toward the planning study.

The study will be the basis for applications for grants to pay for the actual cataloging. The study will provide an estimate of the cost of the project and will formulate rules for carrying it out. The cataloging rules will be broad and flexible enough to be compatible with all forms of recorded sound. AAA foresees that once this multi-million

dollar project is completed, the next step will be cataloging other large areas.

The latest developments include a probable pilot project between the planning study and the full cataloging project, designed to test the study on a small scale to assure its validity, and the possibility that after the pilot project is finished the next step might include not just classical and spoken but all pre-LP commercial records.

The catalogue is important to individuals because of its research possibilities. With one partial exception, none of these huge archives has been catalogued at all. Together they probably hold most of the classical and spoken word records ever issued before LP. Other institutions can use the list to check off their own collections, and records not listed can be considered of a special kind of rarity.

ARSC PUBLICATIONS

The Journal was the original ARSC work in print. The first issue in early 1968 was similar to the present Bulletin, but it soon evolved into the present publication containing articles of permanent interest. It remains the most significant operation of the association, and in fact is the only image ARSC presents not only to the outside world but even to most of its own members, who rarely if ever attend a conference.

The Bulletin began in 1969 as a means of keeping ARSC's housekeeping matters out of the Journal. This annual publication holds minutes of meetings, committee reports and membership lists.

This Newsletter is the latest addition to the list, planned for several years and now off the ground. Its purpose is to foster communication among members. Letters will be published to show the range of interests represented by our correspondence. Its style will be light, its content unfettered. Send something to our Executive Secretary and it will appear. The Newsletter is designed to be flexible enough to appear every three months on schedule.

The Monographic Series has been discussed for years. Now the Publications Committee under Mike Gray has active conversations going with R. R. Bowker, one of the leading publishers of library reference tools, to produce an "ARSC Monographic Series." The ARSC Publications Committee will be the editorial mediator between authors and publisher, screening material for suitability and suggesting areas of improvement if needed. Authors will be paid. Two series are envisioned: a discography series and a research series. The former might include a discography of a prolific recording artist; the latter might include a numerical series or a study of a technical nature. The series is open to any publication in ARSC's areas of interest. Write to Mike if you have any suggestions or possible titles.

Two other items which fall outside the work of the Publications Committee will also appear this year. One is a classified directory of members showing their interests, and the other is a more informative leaflet to send to prospective members.

CHECKLIST

If you're looking for current records, don't overlook any of these listings.

Schwann-1, Schwann-2, Schwann Artist Issue (1976), and several specialized lists, from any record dealer.

Musical Heritage Society 1976 catalogue, from MHS Bldg., Oakhurst, NJ 07755 (\$1).

Peters International catalogue of imports from 619 W. 54th St., NY, NY 10019 (\$1).

HNH Distributors catalogue of imports from Box 222, Evanston, IL 60204.

German News Co. catalogue of imports from 218 E. 86th St., NY, NY 10028 (\$1.50).

Worldtone Music catalogue of imports from 230 7th Ave., NY, NY 10011 (free).

Records International, Box 1904, Los Angeles, CA 90028. A monthly list of selected unusual imports from Uruguay, Belgium, Yugoslavia and other unlikely places.

Gramophone Classical Catalogue (quarterly, £1), Popular Catalogue (quarterly, 47p), Spoken Word (annual, 91p), from 177 Kenton Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 0HA, England. British releases; computer-set; dates of *Gramophone* monthly reviews cited.

Bielefelder Katalog-K (classical and folk), -J (jazz), -W (spoken word), -U (entertainment), -C (cassettes), from Ulmenstrasse 8, 48 Bielefeld, W. Germany. German releases; computer-set (the problems of the first computer-set issue in 1974 have been solved).

Katalog-K is now back to two complete issues a year, with March 1977 just published at DM 10,80 plus 2,20 overseas postage. Review dates in the companion monthly *Fono Forum* are not cited, but *Fono Forum* has a complete list of new issues each month.

Diapason Catalogue Général, from 6 rue Jules Simon, / 92100 Boulogne, France. French releases; annual since 1964; 1977 issue is 35F in soft cover plus 15F for artist index, or 60F for complete edition in boards; plus 8F overseas postage.

Harmonie Catalogue Général Classique, from 38 rue Fessart, / 92100 Boulogne, France. French releases; annual since 1976, competing with the above; 1977 issue is 37F in soft cover plus 22F airmail overseas. Both French catalogues are computer-set; both cite dates of reviews in their respective monthlies.

Angelicum Santandrea Dischi Microsolco, from Piazza S. Angelo 2, / 20121 Milano, Italy. Italian LP and EP releases; now quarterly.

Record Monthly, Tokyo. Lists only new releases, contains advertising. Not much use if you don't read Japanese, but some recent issues are at Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives. More useful would be the several slick Japanese monthly reviews; if you know your music (the opus numbers are arabic) and are familiar with releases in other countries (the jackets, usually identical to those in the rest of the world, are always reproduced), you will find more information on timings and dates of recording (in arabic numerals again) than anywhere else, and the ads are quite legible. Record numbers are often different, even for such a world-wide label as D.G.

Asn for Recorded
Sound Collections
Fine Arts Library
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NE 87131

FIRST CLASS MAIL



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Edward D. Ives
Northeast Folklore Society
South Stevens Hall
University of Maine
Orono, Maine 04473